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The Navajo American Wind talker Coders

The Navajo Code Talkers, often referred to as "Wind Talkers," were a group of Navajo men who played a crucial role in the United States military during World War II. Their unique contribution was the development and use of an unbreakable code based on the Navajo language, which was used to transmit sensitive information and orders across the Pacific front.

The idea for the Navajo Code Talkers originated with Philip Johnston, a World War I veteran who had grown up on the Navajo Nation. He recognized the

potential of the Navajo language for secure military communication due to its complexity and lack of written form. In 1942, Johnston proposed the idea to the U.S. Marine Corps, and a pilot program was launched with 29 Navajo recruits.

These recruits developed a complex code that included over 200 terms, using Navajo words to represent military terms and concepts. For example, the Navajo word for "turtle" was used to signify a tank, and "chicken hawk" represented a dive bomber. The code was so effective that it remained unbroken throughout the war, even by other Navajos who were not part of the program.

The Navajo Code Talkers participated in several key battles, including the Battle of Iwo Jima, where their contributions were particularly significant. Major Howard Connor, the signal officer of the Navajos at Iwo Jima, famously stated, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima".

The legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers is a testament to their bravery, ingenuity, and the vital role they played in securing victory for the Allies. Their story has been commemorated in various books, documentaries, and films, including the 2002 movie "Windtalkers" directed by John Woo.